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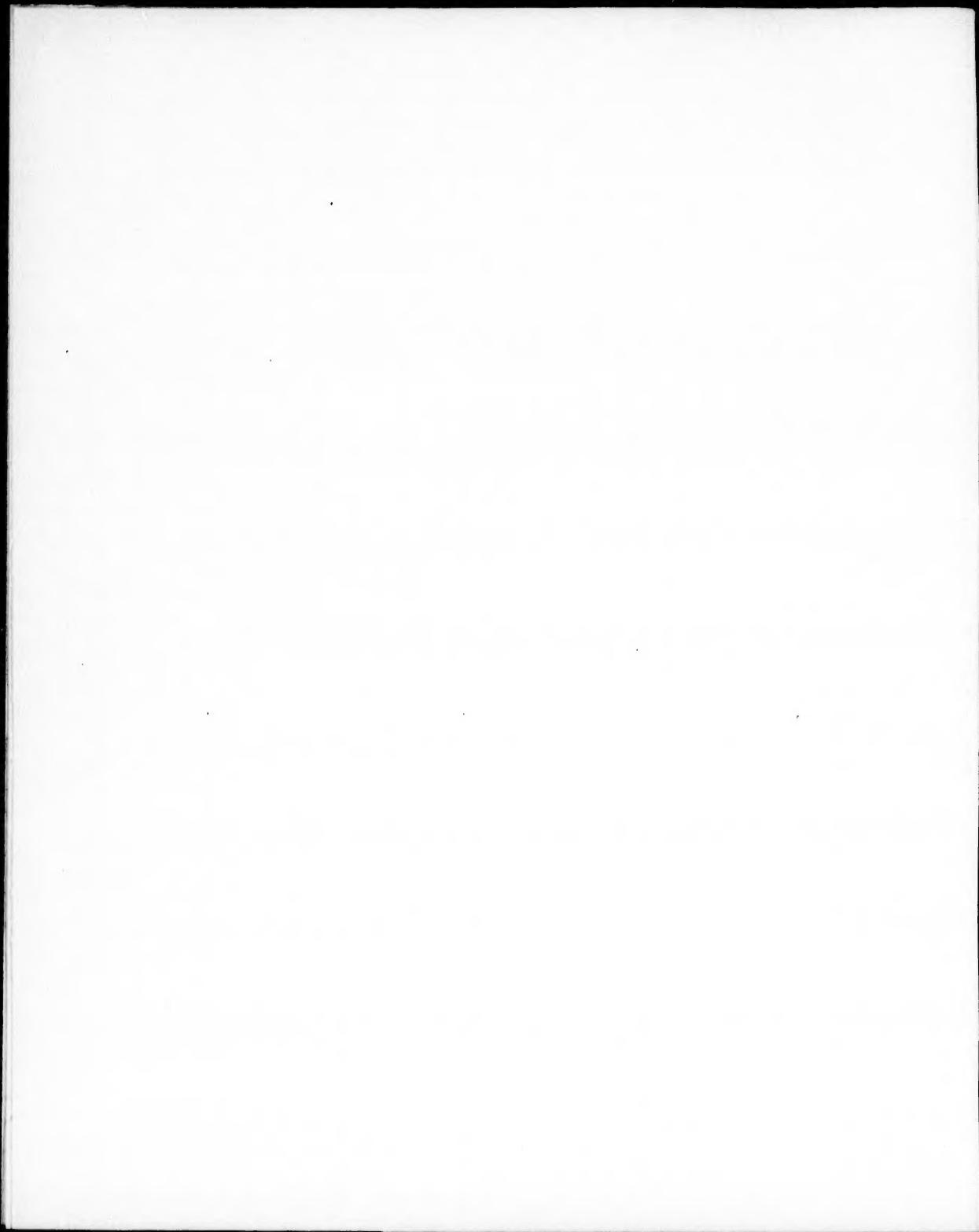
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FRENCH CANADIAN MISSION.



APPEAL TO THE EVANGELICAL CHURCHES OF GREAT BRITAIN.

Montreal, 5th September, 1850.

DEAR FRIENDS AND BRETHREN IN CHRIST JESUS,

We venture again respectfully and hopefully to appeal to you on behalf of the highly-important Mission in which we are engaged, and, in doing so, invite your attention to the following facts and considerations:—

THE STATE OF THE FIELD.—About 600,000 of the inhabitants of Lower Canada are of French origin, and speak the French language. They are a people naturally of intelligent and amiable character, but deeply sunk in ignorance and superstition. Romanism has here full sway. Its priests are numerous and wealthy, and their power over the people almost unbounded. We need not tell you what Romanism is: whatever it is in Ireland, or Belgium, or Italy, it is here. In none of these countries does it display a higher degree of grasping ambition, or a stronger attachment to superstitions, forms, and ceremonies, or a more determined hostility to the Word of God. Of late the most strenuous efforts have been made to control and monopolise the education of the people. A large number of Jesuits and Friars, or Brethren of the so-called Christian schools, as well as Nuns of different orders, are establishing themselves throughout the Province, and immense sums of money are expended in the erection of colleges and seminaries, where their pernicious principles may be infused into the minds of the rising generation. Yet, at the present time, indications of a hopeful character are not wanting. The desire of instruction begins to spread, and long-cherished prejudices to give way; while some are inquiring after another path to a blessed immortality than that which they have hitherto been taught to follow.

THE AGENCY EMPLOYED.—With a view to the evangelisation of this portion of our fellow-countrymen our Missionary Society was formed in 1839. Its constitution is catholic, like those of the Evangelical Societies of Geneva and Paris, and it numbers amongst its members, and on its

committee, ministers and members of the various evangelical denominations in the Province. The Missionaries entered the field in 1849, since which time the work has been prosecuted with encouraging success. The main object of employment is, the preaching of the Gospel, the circulation of the Scriptures and scriptural books and tracts, and the education of the young. There are in connection with the Society two ordained ministers, six colporteurs, and two teachers, with their wives, three of whom are engaged in the tuition of young French Canadian females. The Missionaries, who are selected and approved by a committee in General meeting of Dr. Marie D'Aubigné, Dr. Malan, and others, have proved themselves able and devout servants. The Lord has graciously permitted them to see fruits of their labour. A large number of converts have been visited from house to house, and several thousand copies of the Word of God, with large numbers of religious books and tracts, have been put into their hands.

THE RESULT.—About one thousand French Canadian boys have been admitted to church fellowship, of whom about nine still remain in the Province, and are in various mission churches. Of the remainder, some have been called away by death, while others have gone to the United States.

Besides these, considerable numbers have left the Old Country, but have not yet given evidence of conversion to Christ. About one thousand young French Canadian boys, and sixty girls, have received, or are now receiving, a good common, and above all, thoroughly scriptural, education, in the Mission schools, where there are at present upwards of eighty pupils, male and female, and many others are destined to enter, were it only in circumstances to receive them. The principal of these schools is at Pointe-aux-Trembles, near Montreal; and is in special connection with this Institution that we make the present appeal.

PRESENT REQUIREMENT.—The circumstances which led to these are simply as follow:—About five years ago, the rapidly increasing number of pupils rendered increased accommodation absolutely necessary, and accordingly a farm was purchased, on which the pupils might labour a portion of their time, and a plain but substantial brick building erected upon it, capable of accommodating over a hundred scholars, with their teachers. This, with the farm and out-buildings, cost upwards of £3000. Had the commercial prosperity which at that time smiled upon the Province continued, there is little doubt that the whole would, ere now, have been paid. After much effort, however, about one-third of the above-mentioned sum—£1150, or £2040 sterling—still remains unpaid; and is secured by a mortgage on the property, which falls due in the course of the ensuing winter, and requires to be provided for.

CLAIMS.—We fully acknowledge that the primary obligation devolves upon ourselves and the Protestant inhabitants of the Province generally, but, at the same time, we must be permitted to suggest, that Canada, as a part of the British Empire, has also special claims upon you. To these claims some among you have responded in a manner that calls forth our warmest gratitude; still we cannot disguise the conviction that, generally speaking, they have not hitherto met with that degree of consideration in Britain which their weight and importance merit.

It ought to weigh with you, dear friends, that Canada has long been a neglected field. For three-fourths of a century its people were under British rule, and accessible to British Christian efforts, before any definite effort was made; and this while Missions were established in India, Africa, China, and other countries, whose necessities were scarcely greater, whilst their claims were less direct.

Neither ought it to be forgotten that Canada is the home of many of your countrymen, friends, and relations; and that on the ascendancy of evangelical principles here, depends the preservation to them and to their children of the inestimable blessings of civil and religious liberty.

We pray you also to consider that the present is, as we have above explained, a favourable juncture for effort among the French Canadians.

Finally, we would have you to reflect, that the Institution in behalf of which we specially plead is the great hope of French Canadian evangelisation. God has already blessed it to the conversion of not a few; and it is here we confidently anticipate that it will please Him, out of many who are

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receiving a religious education, to raise up a goodly number of faithful men, who shall go forth to labour among their countrymen as teachers, colporteurs, and evangelists,—with all the advantages of identity of language, habits, and sympathies,—with the love of their kinsmen according to the flesh,—added to the desire common to all Christians for the salvation of men of every kingdom and tongue.

REV. J. E. TANNER'S MISSION.—In order that this matter may be more vividly brought before you, we commission our beloved senior Missionary, the Rev. JEAN E. TANNER, whose name is well known to some amongst you, and dear to the Churches of Christ in Canada and Switzerland, to proceed to Great Britain, and inform you more fully of the religious condition of the French Canadians, and of the prospects of the gospel amongst them. We pray you to receive him in the Lord, to encourage him by your kind attentions, your labours, your prayers, and your liberality. Permit us to hope that in a few months you will put into his hands a sum sufficient to release our Mission from its present difficulties, and to enable it to prosecute its work with renewed vigour.

Praying that the Lord may bless you in your souls, and in your endeavours for His glory, we remain yours in the bond of the gospel,

G. P. WILGRESS, President.	Vice-Presidents.
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Sam. Playfair — 10	Wm. Orr. — 10
J. D. Bryce — 10	J. W. Campbell 10
J. H. Burns — 10	Wm. Charn. Scott — 10
J. Bartholomew — 10	R. Stevenson — 10